

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Projects Unlimited Inc.

Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Projects Unlimited, Inc. Increases Sales and Capacity With Assistance From TechSolve

Client Profile:

Projects Unlimited, Inc. builds highly reliable electronics for missiles, braking control systems for aircraft, electrical load management systems and remote weather reporting stations, and has the capability and capacity to take a product from prototype to full-volume production. The family-owned business has been in the aerospace industry for 60 years. Projects Unlimited is a preferred supplier to several prime contractors that include Boeing, Lockheed, Bell Helicopter, and Smiths/GE Aerospace. The company employs 120 people at its facility in Dayton, Ohio.

Situation:

Projects Unlimited was experiencing capacity constraints due to the rapid growth of the aerospace industry. Realizing that they needed to quickly address this demand for increased capacity, Projects Unlimited took advantage of the Boeing Ohio Investment in Training Program (OITP) grant match program made available to the Ohio Boeing suppliers and contracted with TechSolve, a NIST MEP network affiliate, to assist them with the funding of the project and to implement a set-up reduction/quick changeover improvement process to meet customer demands without the expense of excess inventory.

Solution:

TechSolve's training and Kaizen events focused on the areas of 5S (Sort, Set in Order, Shine, Standardize, Sustain) and set-up reduction. Set-up reduction led to a substantial decrease in the time it took for the physical changeover process from one product to another. 5S training resulted in a 30-second rule to locate needed parts and equipment on the job. Implementation of a quality check at the source by the staff reduced rework and turnaround time. Further tweaking to an existing washer-unit with a simple change to the pressure nozzle dramatically decreased the rework.

Results:

- * Increased sales by \$8 million.
- * Realized \$95,000 in cost savings.
- * Increased capacity by 50 percent.
- * Retained 5 jobs.

Testimonial:

"We are very pleased with the results that TechSolve helped our team achieve. The training is very focused and involves all requires that all members be an active participant. We are in the process of engaging TechSolve to perform similar training with our RFQ [Request For Quote] process."

Dave Browning, Executive Vice President, Aerospace Division

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